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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF : DATE ALLOWED: 01/23/08
YASUHIRA KONDO, ET AL. : EXAMINER: WANG. C. X.
SERIAL NO: 10/803,930 :
FILED: MARCH 19, 2004 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2624
FOR: PROCESSOR FOR ANALYZING :
TUBULAR STRUCTURE SUCH AS
BLOOD VESSELS

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

The “examiner's statement of reasons for allowance,” included in item 1 under the heading “Allowable Subject Matter,” on page 2 attached to the “Notice of Allowability” (PTOL-37) that is in turn attached to the “Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due” mailed January 23, 2008, is mistaken in referring to the subject matter of the allowed claims as all including “final analysis steps” that “consist of indicating whether or not the position of the center line displayed on both of the reference image and the curved reformatted image is acceptable.”

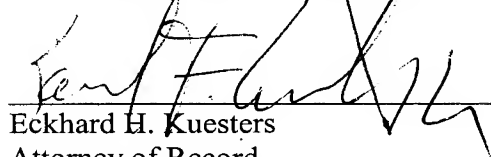
In this regard, allowed independent Claims 9, 10, and 13 are structural claims directed to an “analyzer,” not method claims. Claims 9, 10, and 13, and the claims dependent thereon, recite various “units” in combination, not any “final analysis steps.” To the extent that Claim 10 has a final recitation of “a unit” associated with the centerline, this Claim 10 finally recited “unit” is recited to be “configured to reproduce the data of the center line based on the plurality of pairs of markers re-decided,” not to indicate “whether or not the position of the

center line displayed on both of the reference image and the curved reformatted image is acceptable.” Independent Claim 13 is even more removed from the asserted “final analysis steps” as the last recited unit thereof includes no recitations at all as to the center line, much less any recitation of any indication “whether or not the position of the center line displayed on both of the reference image and the curved reformatted image is acceptable.” While Claim 9 at least recites subject matter concerned with the center line being “acceptable,” it is in terms of “an analysis permitting unit configured to permit the analysis unit to analyze the morphological feature of the tubular structure only when the signal received by the reception unit indicates that the position of the center line is acceptable.”

Accordingly, the above-noted “examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance” should be modified to indicate the actual subject matter of allowed independent Claims 9, 10, and 13.

Respectfully submitted,

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